



S/N 09/931,113

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	HIRAMOTO et al.	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	09/931,113	Group Art Unit:	1775
Filed:	August 16, 2001	Docket No.:	10873.792US00
Title:	MAGNETO-RESISTIVE ELEMENT		

RECEIVED  
APR 23 2003  
TC 1700

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 15, 2003.

By: *Jennifer Holden*  
Name: Jennifer Holden

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were recently cited in a European Search Report mailed March 3, 2003.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the European Search Report.

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):

DE 199 34 009 corresponds with U.S. 6,424,506 & U.S. 6,221,172.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

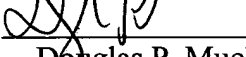
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: April 15, 2003

By:   
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/jh

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HIRAMOTO et al.

Examiner: Unknown

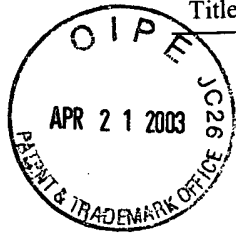
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By: *Jennifer Holden*  
Name: Jennifer Holden

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 16 References
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By: *Douglas P. Mueller*  
Name: Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No.: 30,300  
DPM/jh

